

## **MT Opticom Project Summary**

MT Opticom is proposing to install a fiber optic line on National Forest System lands between Big Sky and Belgrade. This project is being designed to meet the growing demand for internet services in the Belgrade and Four Corners areas. MT Opticom is proposing to construct the new fiber optic line along and within the existing, disturbed right-of-way of U.S. Highway 191 and State Highway 64. The new line will consist of plowing, trenching, and boring a fiber optic line at a minimum of 42" below grade (Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) standards) along the existing, disturbed right-of-way along U.S. Highway 191 and State Highway 64. Approximately 27 acres of NFS lands would be affected (approximately 15 miles long and up to 15 feet wide). The fiber optic line will be encased in an orange plastic conduit.

The fiber optic line will be installed via plowing, trenching and boring. Plowing will utilize a tracked caterpillar that contains a friction-type plow tooth/blade on the back that knifes the conduit into the ground. The soil disturbance will be approximately 46 inches deep and 6 inches wide. The caterpillar width will be approximately 15 feet wide. This method would be used on approximately 65% of the entire project.

The trenching method will consist of approximately 30% of the installation. The trenching method will typically utilize a standard hoe. The soil disturbance is approximately 46 inches deep and 36 to 48 inches wide. The hoe equipment disturbance is approximately 15 feet wide. The hoe can also use rock-saw and jack-hammers for tough rock areas.

The boring method will consist of approximately 5% of the total installation. It will be used under culverts for streams and while crossing roadways. It utilizes a bore machine that burrows a hole underground with minimal surface impact. The soil disturbance is typically a 6 by 6 foot area at the beginning and end of the bore. The impacted corridor is approximately 10 feet wide.

Above grade facilities are identified on the staking sheets. These locations are based on needed splice points, access points for future locating purposes, pull points for cable installation, and future capability of moving the fiber facilities if needed due to road construction or other unknown issues.

The timing of the project would be during non-winter months for approximately 45 days. MTDOT standards and guidelines for installation and safety will be applied. All areas of soil disturbance will be restored and revegetated.

In addition to work within the right-of-way additional NFS land may be needed as temporary work and construction staging areas.

Upon completion of the project the new fiber optic line will be operated and maintained in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The intent of this Project Summary is to provide a brief overview of the proposed activities on NFS lands. Additional activities associated with this project will occur on private and state lands, please refer questions regarding project activities on private and state to Attention: Dustin Maier, Kadrmas Lee & Jackson, Inc., 128 Soo Line Drive, Bismarck, ND 58502.